

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 22 April 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand regarding the unprovoked armed attacks by Cambodian troops on Thai territory in the area of Ta Kwai temple and along the Thai-Cambodian border near Tamuen temples, in Surin Province, on 22 April 2011 (sec annex).

I have the further honour to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Norachit Sinhaseni
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 22 April 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand regarding the unprovoked armed attacks by Cambodian troops at the Thai-Cambodian border on 22 April 2011

With regard to the unprovoked armed attacks on 22 April 2011 by Cambodian troops on Thai soldiers and civilians, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand wishes to state the following facts:

1. From 6.30 a.m. to 7 a.m. on 22 April 2011, Cambodian troops opened fire and launched heavy weapons, including mortars and artillery, without any provocation, into the area of Ta Kwai temple and along the Thai-Cambodian border towards Ta Muen temples, situated in Surin Province, Thailand. The Cambodian troops launched these attacks after a Thai Military Patrol Unit encountered armed Cambodian soldiers constructing bunkers in the area of Ta Kwai temple in Thai territory and informed the Cambodian side that such acts clearly violate Thai sovereignty.
2. At 8 a.m., a discussion was held by the commanders of both local forces during which a ceasefire was agreed. However, at 8.30 a.m., the Cambodian side restarted the firing of mortars and artillery into Thai territory, constituting a breach of the aforementioned agreement. The said exchange of fire lasted until 9.35 a.m.
3. These unprovoked armed attacks by Cambodian troops caused the death of at least three Thai soldiers and the injury of many soldiers, as well as the destruction of many civilian buildings and evacuation of nearly 10,000 civilians.
4. The Thai side has never opened fire first and has always exercised maximum restraint. However in light of Cambodia's action, Thailand was left with no choice but to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity by using proportionate means under international law.
5. Thailand protests in the strongest terms the unprovoked armed attacks of Cambodia on both Thai military and civilians, and the construction of the bunkers, which is a clear violation of international law, and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as of the 2000 Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Thailand and the Government of Cambodia on the Survey and Demarcation of the Land Boundary, Thailand has exercised its inherent right of self-defence on the basis of necessity and proportionality and its response was directed strictly at the military targets from which the attacks were launched by Cambodian troops.
6. Thailand reaffirms its commitment to resolving any pending boundary issues peacefully and calls on Cambodia to resolve the dispute through the existing bilateral mechanisms, including the General Border Committee; the Regional Border Committee (a subcommittee of the General Border Committee); and the Thai-Cambodian Joint Commission on Demarcation of the Land Boundary. As a matter of fact, Thailand discussed the work on the survey and demarcation in the area around Ta Kwai temple with Cambodia during the meeting of the Joint Commission on Demarcation of the Land Boundary at Bogor City, Indonesia, on

7 and 8 April 2011. The record of the discussion of that meeting, which states that Thailand expressed its desire and readiness to commence survey work in Sector 5 (the area where Ta Kwai temple is located), demonstrates the sincerity of the Thai side in respect of resolving the boundary issues through peaceful means under the Joint Commission on Demarcation of the Land Boundary mechanism. In this regard, the Ministry of Defence of Thailand is in the process of consultation with its Cambodian counterpart, with a view to convening the General Border Committee and Regional Border Committee meetings as soon as possible.
